

Message Text

SECRET

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54

ORIGIN AF-18

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 NEA-10 IO-14 SSO-00 CCO-00 NSCE-00

INRE-00 USIE-00 USSS-00 EUR-25 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07

H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01

SPC-03 SS-20 ACDA-19 /149 R

DRAFTED BY AF/N:JJBLAKE:EW

APPROVED BY THE DEPUTY SECRETARY

S/S-O:RELTZ

NEA:MR. ATHERTON

AF:AMB. ROSS

S/S-MR. GAMMON

----- 000402

P 171741Z OCT 73

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY TUNIS PRIORITY

S E C R E T STATE 205715

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, TS, US

SUBJECT: MIDDLE EAST: MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT BOURGUIBA

REF: STATE 203676

1. IN PRESENTING MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT BOURGUIBA TO PRESIDENT NIXON (REFTEL) EL-GOULLI TOLD DEPUTY SECRETARY THE ARABS DID NOT REGARD THEMSELVES AS AGGRESSORS INASMUCH AS THEY HAD WAITED SIX YEARS TO RECOVER PEACEFULLY TERRITORIES LOST IN 1967 AND WERE NOW FIGHTING FOR THEIR OWN LAND. ACCORDING TO EL-GOULLI "EVEN THE EUROPEANS UNDERSTAND THIS." EL-GOULLI STATED GOT KNOWS US IS NOT AN ENEMY, BUT ASKED WHETHER US COULD SAY PUBLICLY TO ISRAEL THAT LATTER CANNOT LIVE BY WAR AND SHOULD GIVE UP OCCUPIED TERRITORIES. DEPUTY SECRETARY ASSURED EL-GOULLI THAT USG CONTINUES TO WORK TOWARD PERMANENT PEACE IN MIDDLE EAST.

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MEANTIME, HOWEVER, IT CANNOT SIT BACK AND LET SOVIET

EQUIPMENT CRUSH ISRAEL.

2. EL-GOULLI STATED PROBLEM WITH PRESENT SITUATION IS THAT ARABS, HAVING ACHIEVED MILITARY SUCCESSES, WILL FEEL MORE CONFIDENT TO START ANOTHER WAR IN MIDDLE EAST FIVE TO TEN YEARS FROM NOW UNLESS PERMANENT AND EQUITABLE SOLUTION IS REACHED IN AREA. HE SUGGESTED US SHOULD TELL RUSSIANS TO TELL ARABS THAT THEY HAVE RECOVERED PRESTIGE THEY LOST IN 1967 AND THAT THEY SHOULD WITHDRAW TO 1967

LINES (EL-GOULLI APPEARED TO BELIEVE ARABS WOULD SUCCEED IN PUSHING MILITARY GAINS PAST 1967 LINES.) AMBASSADOR CONCLUDED WITH COMMENT THAT NO RPT NO CEASE FIRE WOULD BE ACCEPTED BY ARABS IN ABSENCE OF ASSURANCE REGARDING WHAT WOULD FOLLOW. DEPUTY SECRETARY ASSURED EL-GOULLI USG WOULD CONTINUE ITS EFFORTS TO FIND A WAY OUT OF PRESENT CRISIS. KISSINGER

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NNN

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Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
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Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Drafter: JJBLAKE:EW
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Handling Restrictions: n/a
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30 JUN 2005

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